



McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Mitigation Plan Frequently Asked Questions (Mitigation Plan FAQs)

November 2010

1. What is the McHenry County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan?

The McHenry County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, December 2010 (Mitigation Plan) is a multi-hazard mitigation plan that addresses natural hazards that may impact McHenry County. It is considered to be a multi-jurisdictional plan. It is a plan that makes McHenry County and McHenry municipalities and townships eligible for mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

2. What is hazard mitigation?

Hazard mitigation is defined as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event. Examples of hazard mitigation include flood control projects, storm warning systems, and building codes.

3. Why is/was the Mitigation Plan developed?

The Mitigation Plan was developed to fulfill the federal mitigation planning requirements of Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and the Stafford Act for funding under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs. This Mitigation Plan is also eligible for credit under the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System.

4. What does the Mitigation Plan address?

The Mitigation Plan identifies activities that can be undertaken by both the public and the private sectors to reduce safety hazards, health hazards, and property damage caused by natural hazards. The Mitigation Plan focuses on the identified major hazards facing McHenry County: floods, severe summer storms, winter storms, tornadoes, extreme heat and cold events, and drought.

5. Who developed the Mitigation Plan?

The Mitigation Plan was prepared by the McHenry County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee. The Mitigation Committee members include representatives of County offices, and all interested municipalities, townships and agencies.

6. The Mitigation Plan is considered multi-jurisdictional. Is this the same as "countywide"?

No, the Mitigation Plan is *not* a countywide plan like the McHenry County Stormwater Management Plan. FEMA allows for the multi-jurisdictional development of hazard mitigation plans. Each government agency will adopt and implement the Mitigation Plan for its own purposes. The County Board adoption of the Mitigation Plan will be for the unincorporated areas of the County. Each municipality must adopt the Mitigation Plan. It is recommended, though not required, that the townships adopt the Mitigation Plan.

7. What is the status of the Mitigation Plan?

The Mitigation Plan was submitted to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and FEMA for review and IEMA and FEMA have approved the plan. This means the Mitigation Plan is ready for the County and each municipalities and townships to adopt.

8. How do we adopt the Mitigation Plan?

By resolution. The County and each participating municipality must adopt the Mitigation Plan. A sample resolution has been provided to the Mitigation Committee members. The resolution will state which action items in the Action Plan (Chapter 10) the community will work to implement and the name of the responsible person or office. The McHenry County Board will adopt the Mitigation Plan in December, 2010.

9. What do we do after our community has adopted the Mitigation Plan?

Send a copy of the adoption resolution to IEMA:

Mr. Jared Owen
Illinois Emergency Management Agency
1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62704

Jared.Owen@Illinois.gov

Then consider mitigation grant opportunities.

10. Who will implement the Mitigation Plan?

Each municipality, agency and institution that adopts the Mitigation Plan will implement the Mitigation Plan, according to the resolution passed, and *as resources (staff time and funding) become available*. Ideally, there will be some joint efforts, through the Mitigation Committee, with the County, municipalities and townships to implement mitigation actions. An example of a joint effort may be the development of common public information materials.

11. What if we don't adopt the Mitigation Plan?

Then your community will not be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funds from FEMA programs.

12. If we don't adopt the Mitigation Plan will our community be eligible for IEMA/FEMA disaster assistance following a disaster declaration for McHenry County?

Yes. This Mitigation Plan is for the mitigation grant purposes. It is not tied to disaster assistance. Recognize that often mitigation projects come to light following a disaster. It is prudent to have an adopted mitigation plan.

13. What are the types of mitigation grants available?

Planning grants and project grants. Examples of mitigation planning grants would be for the study of repetitive flood loss areas, or the evaluation of critical facilities to determine if they are disaster resistant. Examples of mitigation project grants would be for floodplain property acquisitions, or construction of a tornado shelter at a senior care facility. All plans and projects are funded 75% by FEMA and 25% by the community or agency.

14. How do we apply for a mitigation grant?

Mitigation grants are applied for through the IEMA. An online "eGrant" application is used. Communities can contact Ron Davis, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer at IEMA, at 217/782-8719 (Ron.Davis@illinois.gov) for more information.

15. What is the FEMA web site for hazard mitigation grants programs?

For more information about FEMA mitigation grant programs, or HMA, visit:
<http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hma/index.shtm>

Also, visit IEMA's web site at:
<http://www.state.il.us/iema/planning/planning.htm>

16. How can I learn more about the Community Rating System (CRS)?

Information on the CRS can be found at FEMA's web site:
<http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/crs.shtm>